News Release

Frye and DeMaio Call for Reform of Method for Selecting City Ethics Commissioners

Suggest Using a Panel of Retired Judges in Selection to Ensure Maximum Independence

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SAN DIEGO – Councilmembers Donna Frye and Carl DeMaio today called on the Mayor and City Council to reform the way the city's Ethics Commissioners are selected. The two unveiled a bipartisan proposal to involve a panel of retired judges in the confirmation of applicants to the Commission.

"City elected officials should not be confirming their own Ethics Commissioners. That's like the IRS letting you select your Mom to audit your taxes," DeMaio commented in calling for the more independent appointments process.

"We need to remove politics from the appointment of Ethics Commissioners. This proposal will maximize the independence and integrity of the commission," noted Frye.

DeMaio and Frye also proposed that individuals who served in a paid staff capacity for current elected officials within the last five years be disqualified from consideration.

With the City Council set to consider three appointments to the Ethics Commission tomorrow, as item 110 on the July 28th docket, DeMaio and Frye asked that those appointments be postponed until the selection process is reformed. The delay in making appointments would not affect the functioning of the Commission in any way, as current Commissioners would continue to serve until replacements are chosen.

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